

Press Release

March 14, 2018

Prof. Dr. Alfred Nordheim is new Scientific Director at the FLI

On March 14th, Prof. Dr. Alfred Nordheim was included in the ‘Register of Associations’ as new Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena, Germany. Within the upcoming years, the molecular biologist from Tübingen University will direct scientific matters of the Institute, until the appointment process of the long-term future Scientific Director is completed.

“I am delighted that Prof. Alfred Nordheim is joining FLI as Scientific Director”, says Dr. Daniele Barthel, Administrative Director of FLI. “He is a highly renowned researcher and I’m sure that he will guide the Institute’s scientific activities in a successful way”. FLI’s Board of Trustees and the Scientific Advisory Board had chosen Prof. Nordheim as the successful candidate. The appointment of a new Scientific Director had become necessary after FLI’s former Scientific Director, Prof. Dr. K. Lenhard Rudolph, was reprimanded publically by the Leibniz Association in summer 2017.

Molecular Biologist and Cancer Researcher

Prof. Dr. Alfred Nordheim, an expert in vertebrate differentiation and organ development, is currently holding the chair on “Molecular Biology” at the Interfaculty Institute for Cell Biology (IFIZ) at Tübingen University, Germany. He studied biology at Free University Berlin and, in 1979, completed his PhD (Dr. rer. nat.). He then was postdoc at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, Boston, USA) for four years, before heading a research group at Heidelberg University for six years and subsequently leading the Institute for Molecular Biology at Hannover Medical School (MHH) for seven years. Since 1996, he has been a Professor in Tübingen University. He will continue his work there, but will split his time between Tübingen and Jena.

“I am really looking forward to this new challenge in Jena”, says Prof. Dr. Alfred Nordheim. “The Institute’s aging research is of utmost societal importance. FLI has attained an excellent international reputation. All the more am I happy to guide FLI’s scientific endeavors in the near future”.

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Background information

The **Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI)** – upon its inauguration in 2004 – was the first German research organization dedicated to research on the process of aging. More than 330 employees from over 30 nations explore the molecular mechanisms underlying aging processes and age-associated diseases. For more information, please visit www.leibniz-fli.de.

The **Leibniz Association** connects 93 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services. The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Leibniz Institutes collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of “WissenschaftsCampi” (thematic partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad. They are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the institutes’ importance for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federation and the Länder, employing some 18,600 individuals, including 9,500 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.7 billion EUR. See www.leibniz-association.eu for more information.

Pictures



Pic 1: Prof. Dr. Alfred Nordheim is new Scientific Director at the Leibniz Institute on Aging (FLI) in Jena. (source: FLI/Nadine Grimm)